

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 AID-20 USIA-15

/057 W

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R 051530Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4606

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POUCHED FOR INFO: AMMAN JIDDA KUWAIT TUNIS CASABLANCA CAIRO
AND BAGHDAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC ELAB LE (SACRE, GEORGE SAID)

SUBJ: TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SACRE VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: BEIRUT 10748

1. SUMMARY WASHINGTON VISIT OF LEBANESE LABOR
LEADER GEORGE SACRE IS MOST TIMELY OPPORTUNITY TO
EXPLORE WAYS TO STRENGTHEN FRIENDLY - AND POTENTIALLY
FRIENDLY - LABOR ELEMENTS IN ARAB WORLD. END SUMMARY.
2. EMBASSY DOUBTS IF ANY ARAB LABOR LEADER HAS BEEN
AS DEMONSTRABLY PRO-WESTERN THIS PAST SUMMER AS
GEORGE SACRE, THE LEBANESE TRADE-UNIONIST WHO WILL
BE IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK FOR IV SPECIAL PROGRAM
FOR HIGH-LEVEL FOREIGN LABOR LEADERS.
3. IN JUNE SACRE BUCKED EXISTING ARAB LABOR TREND
BY LEADING LEBANESE PETROLEUM WORKERS FEDERATION
INTO RPT INTO ICFTU. MOREOVER, THE FOLLOWING MONTH
HE TOOK OPEN ISSUE WITH PREVAILING ARAB PATTERN OF
DISAFFILIATION FROM WESTERN TRADE UNION INTERNATIONALS.

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4. BY LETTER OF JUL 30 TO ARAB FEDERATION OF

PETROLEUM WORKERS (AFPW), WHICH HE DEMANDED THAT SACRE'S FEDERATION WITHDRAW FROM IFPCW (IN WHICH HE IS INT V.P.) AS PRE-CONDITION, FOR ADMISSION TO AFWP, SACRE REJECTED THIS PRE-CONDITION, DECLARING RELATIONS WITH WESTERN LABOR INTERNATIONALS WERE "NECESSARY" AND ARGUING THAT DISAFFILIATION PRACTICE PRIMARILY HARMS ARABS AND ARAB CAUSE. SACRE SENT COPY OF LETTER TO EVERY NATIONAL PETROLEUM WORKERS UNION IN ARAB WORLD.

5. FOREGOING DOES NOT MEAN SACRE IS ANYTHING LESS THAN LEBANESE ARAB, HOWEVER. HE STRONGLY CRITICAL OF U.S. ME POLICY AND LIABLE RAISE THIS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS AND LABOR LEADERS (AS HE HAS DONE IN PAST). HEJ HAS ALSO BEEN KNOWN TO PLAY OCCASIONAL FOOTsie WITH COMMUNIST ELEMENTS ON LOCAL LABOR SCENE.

6. NONETHELESS, HIS PRO-WESTERN, TREND-BUCKING ACTIONS AND

FACT THAT HE REPRESENTS SINGULARLY STRETEGIC LABOR SENB PP- PETROLEUM - LEAD EMBASSY TO FLAG HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON AS MOST TIMELY OPPORTUNITY FOR APPROPRIATE STATE/LABOR OFFICIALS TO REVIEW WITH HIM CURRENT OUTLOOK ON INTER-ARAB LABOR SCENE, AND TO EXPLORE WAYS AND MEANS TO INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF FRIENDLY - AND POTENTIALLY FRIENDLY - LABOR ELEMENTS IN ARAB WORLD. EMBASSY HOPES AND EXPECTS THAT AFL/CIO AND AAFli WILL ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE WITH HIM ON SAME SUBJS. BUFFUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, VISITS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BEIRUT11865
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731049/aaaabjsq.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BEIRUT 10748
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <10-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SACRE VISIT TO WASHINGTON
TAGS: OEXC, ELAB, LE, ARAB FED OF PETROLEUM WORKERS, AFPW, IFPCW, (SACRE, GEORGE SAID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005